# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:378
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
SAARC INFORMATION MINISTERS CONFERENCE
NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY;RATTAN LAL KATARIA

**Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Minister of Information and Broadcasting recently visited Islamabad to attend SAARC Information Ministers`s Conference;

(b) if so, the main points discussed in the Conference and the decisions taken therein;

(c) the countries with whom agreements in the field of information and broadcasting have been made, particularly with Pakistan; and

(d) the outcome thereof, country-wise?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 378 FOR ANSWE ON 18.04.2002

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : The Information is given in the enclosed Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): We have no Agreement in the field of information and broadcasting with Pakistan. However, we have Agreements in this field with other countries (details at Annexure-II). Implementation Status of such agreements is also included in the same Annexure-II.

Annexure-I REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b)OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.378FOR ANSWER ON 18.04.2002

The main points discussed in the Conference and the decisions taken therein are as under:

i. Evolution of SAARC recognized Regional Media Forum; It was decided to encourage formation of SAARC media forum and also facilitate their meeting at regular intervals.

ii. Holding of an annual conference of editors and working journalists from SAARC countries; It was decided to hold the first such annual conference of editors and working journalists from SAARC countries at Dhaka.

iii. Training of media persons of SAARC countries; The Meeting requested some Member Countries to provide the details of Institutions and available training programmes to the SAARC Secretariat by the end of April 2002, for circulation and possible utilization by the interested Member Countries.

iv. Model guidelines on transnational satellite broadcasting in the region; In pursuance of the recommendation of the 1st SAARC Information Minister`s Conference (April 1998), India had prepared the model guidelines on transnational satellite broadcasting in the region for consideration at this forum. The Meeting appreciated the effort of the Government of India and requested the Member States to furnish their comments on the model guidelines.

v. Financial and technical feasibility of establishing a SAARC satellite; It was decided not to pursue the establishment of an independent SAARC satellite.

vi. Feasibility of setting up of a SAARC Information Centre with media production, research and training units; The setting up of SAARC Information Centre under Secretary General, assisted by well versed professionals from member countries, was recommended.

vii. Feasibility of setting up of a SAARC Media Development Fund; Bangladesh has been asked to submit a concept paper on setting up of a SAARC Media Development Fund.

viii. Review of activities of the SAVE Committee, and annual meeting of the Heads of national TV/Radio organizations;

The offer of Pakistan to host the second meeting of the Heads of national TV/Radio organizations was accepted. The meeting of the Heads of national TV/Radio organizations will review the activities of the SAVE Committee with a view to improve the content and nature of its programmes, the mechanism of circulation of SAVE programmes among Member Countries, and produce joint live programmes frequently.

ix. Institution of a SAARC Award on Folk Music; The proposal of Pakistan regarding institution of a SAARC Award on Folk Music was welcomed.

x. Identification of new steps for strengthening cooperation in the field of Information and media, including developing appropriate software for information infrastructure of SAARC functional cooperation; Member countries were asked to provide inputs for website developed by SAARC Secretariat.

xi. Publicity and projection of SAARC activities within and outside the region; The efforts of SAARC Secretariat for dissemination o information of SAARC were appreciated.

xii. Evolving a SAARC Common position for projection at the World Summit on the Information Society (Switzerland − December, 2003); The meeting considered and appreciated the need for evolving a common position on the subject.

xiii. The idea of free movement of media personnel within SAARC region was discussed and it was supported in principle and it was agreed to present the matter to the SAARC Standing Committee for consideration.

xiv. Considering the importance of Meetings of SAARC Information Ministers, it was decided to meet once a year. The offer of the Government of India for hosting the 3rd meeting of the SAARC Information Ministers in the first quarter of 2003 was welcomed and accepted.

ANNEXURE II REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS ( c) AND (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.378 FOR ANSWEI ON 18.4.2002

List of Countries with whom India has Agreement/MOU/Protocol

| Sl.No. | Brief subject of the Agreement | Date of signing | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Agreement between India and Syria in the field of Information. | 02.09.1988 | Active |
| 2. | Radio and TV Protocol between India and Syria | 28.02.1990 | Active |
| 3. | Protocol on cooperation in the field of Radio & TV between AIR, DDI and Egyptian, Radio and TV Union | 19.04.1997 | Active |
| 4. | Information Agreement between India and Egypt | 16.10.1995 | Active |
| 5. | Agreement between India and Russia in the field of Information | 28.01.1993 | Active |
| 6. | Protocol for cooperation in the field of information and Mass Media between India and Uzbekistan | 02.05.2000 | Active |
| 7. | Protocol for cooperation in the field of Radio and TV between India and Sudan | 09.04.2000 | Active |

8. MOU in the field of Information and Mass Media between India and Ethopia 28.09.1984 Active

9. Protocol in the sphere of Information between India and UAE 04.04.2000 Active

List of the Countries with whom India has CEP

| Sl.No. | Name of the Country | Duration of CEP | Date of validity |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Bulgaria | 2001-2003 | 31.12.2003 |
| 2. | Cambodia | 2000-2002 | 31.12.2002 |
| 3. | China | 2000-2002 | 31.12.2002 |
| 4. | France | 2000-2002 | 31.12.2002 |
| 5. | Germany | 1997-2000 | Valid till new CEP signed |
| 6. | Hellonic (Greece) | 1999-2000 | 31.12.2002 |
| 7 | Indonesia | 2001-2003 | 31.12.2003 |
| 8. | Iran | 2000-2002 | 31.12.2002 |
| 9. | Jordan | 2000-2002 | 31.12.2002 |
| 10. | Mongolia | 2000-2002 | 31.12.2002 |
| 11. | Sudan | 2000-2002 | 31.12.2002 |
| 12. | Tunisia | 2000-2002 | 31.12.2002 |
| 13. | Turkey | 2000-2002 | 31.12.2002 |
| 14. | Vietnam | 2001-2003 | 31.12.2003 |
| 15. | Croatia | 2001-2003 | 31.12.2003 |
| 16. | South Africa | 2001-2003 | 31.12.2003 |
| 17. | Morocco | 2001-2003 | 31.12.2003 |
| 18. | Belarus | 2002-2004 | 31.12.2004 |